

The Alexandria Gazette

FRIDAY EVEN'G, DECEMBER 26.

Capt. Geo. F. Lawton, of Georgia, Assistant Adjutant General of Ewell's division of the Confederate army, who was severely wounded at the battle of Fredericksburg, and has since been kindly and carefully attended to at the U. S. Hospital in this place, whither he was brought after the battle, died to-day, about 12 o'clock, M.

In General Sumner's testimony before the Committee on the Conduct of the War, is the following:

Q. In regard to the condition of the army since the battle, is it demoralized any more than by the loss of that number of men?

A. I think it is.

Q. To what extent, and in what way?

A. It is difficult to describe it in any other way than by saying there is a great deal too much croaking; there is not sufficient confidence.

SUITS AGAINST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.—

On Thursday last suits were brought in the Superior Court in Baltimore by Henry M. Warfield, F. K. Howard and S. T. Wallis, Esqrs., against Major General John E. Wool, for false and illegal imprisonment, in confining them at Fortress Monroe shortly after their arrest in September, 1861. The damages, in each case, are laid at twenty thousand dollars.

On Saturday attachments, at the suit of Charles Howard, William H. Gatchell and John W. Davis, Esqrs., late Police Commissioners, were issued out of the same court against Simon Cameron, late Secretary of War, for illegal arrest and false imprisonment. The damages in each of the three cases were also laid at twenty thousand dollars. The attachments were levied, as we learn, upon the stock held by Mr. Cameron in the Northern Central Railroad Company.—*Balt. Gazette.*

Rev. Thos. K. Beecher, brother of Henry Ward Beecher, chaplain of a regiment raised at Elmira, writes to the New York Times from near Warrenton: "I have been glad at heart to see our men in squads taking down a useless fence by daylight, and putting the lumber to service. When they used to steal it, bit by bit, the chaplain was grieved. But when the order came, 'Rise, privates, take and build!' then I felt like mixing dialects, and shouting Bully Hallelujah!"

The New York papers contain the particulars of the sad end of a fast young man in that city. The victim was a young man named Edward Tomlins, only 19 years of age; he was employed as a clerk in a wholesale clothing house at a salary of \$300 a year, but living far beyond his means, and becoming a defaulter to his employers to the amount of over \$1,000, he blew his brains out with a revolver.

The Senatorial cabal, which has assumed, for the first time, to dictate a change of Cabinet to the President, is now placed in antagonism to the administration.

Richmond papers contain a dispatch from Charleston, dated the 19th inst., announcing that a very large steamer, freighted for the Confederate States Government, had safely arrived lately at a Southern port, bringing a heavy stock of shoes and blankets, and an immense quantity of clothes and other supplies.

GEN. BURNSIDE'S TESTIMONY.

In his testimony before the Committee on the Conduct of the War, Gen. Burnside said:

On the 7th or 8th of November, I received an order from the President, directing me to take command of the Army of the Potomac, and also a copy of the order relieving General McClellan from that command. This order was conveyed to me by Gen. Buckingham, who was attached to the War Department.—After getting over my surprise, the shock, &c. I told Gen. Buckingham that it was a matter that required very serious thought; that I did not want the command; that it had been offered to me twice before, and I did not feel that I could take it; I counseled with two of my staff officers in regard to it for, I should think, an hour and a half. They urged upon me that I had no right, as a soldier, to disobey the order, and that I had already expressed to the Government my unwillingness to take the command. I told them what my views were with reference to my ability to exercise such a command, which views were those I had unreservedly expressed, that I was not competent to command such a large army as this; I had said the same over and over again to the President and Secretary of War; and also that if matters could be satisfactorily arranged with Gen. McClellan I thought he could command the Army of the Potomac better than any other general in it.

Subsequently Gen. Burnside said:

After reaching here, I saw at once that there was no chance for crossing the Rappahannock with the army at that time. It commenced raining, and the river began to rise—not to any great extent, but I did not know how much it might rise. There were no means of crossing, except by going up to the fords, and it would be impossible to do that because of the inability to supply the troops after they should cross.

Gen. Burnside says his plan was, had the bridges arrived in season, to have made a rapid movement in the direction of Richmond, and fight a battle with the enemy before Jackson could make a junction with them.

After the repulse on Saturday witness wished to make another attack the next morning, but the division and corps commanders unanimously opposed to it. From this fact, and inasmuch also as the President of the United States had told him not to be in haste in making this attack, that he would give him all the support he could, but he did not want the army of the Potomac destroyed, witness felt that he could not take the responsibility of ordering the attack, notwithstanding his own belief at the time that the works of the enemy could be carried.

Question. What reasons do you assign for the failure of your attack here?

Answer. It was found to be impossible to get the men up to the works. The enemy's fire was too hot for them. The whole command fought most valiantly. The enemy say they never saw men fight as hard as on that day.

Question. Were the enemy's works very strong?

Answer. Their works are not strong works, but they occupy very strong positions. It is possible that the points of attack were wrongly ordered. If such is the case, I can only say that I did to the best of my ability. It is also possible that we would have done better to have crossed at Skinkers's Neck, but, for what I suppose to be good reasons, I felt we had better cross here. That we would have a more decisive engagement here, and that if we succeeded in defeating the enemy here we would break up the whole of their army here, which I think is now the most desirable thing, not even second to the taking of Richmond, for if this army was broken up, though they might defend Richmond for a while, they could not make any protracted defense there.

By Mr. Gooch:

Question. Do I understand you to say that it was your understanding that Gen. Halleck and Gen. Meigs, while at your headquarters in Warrenton and before you commenced the

movement of your army, sent orders to Washington for the pontoons to be immediately forwarded to Falmouth.

Answer. That was my understanding, certainly.

Question. Who did you understand was responsible for the forwarding of the pontoons to Falmouth?

Answer. I understand that General Halleck was to give the necessary orders, and then the officers who should receive the orders were the ones responsible for the pontoons coming here. I could have carried out that part of my plan through officers of my own. But having just taken the command of the army, with which I was but little acquainted, it was evident that it was as much as I could attend to, with the assistance of all my officers, to change its position from Warrenton to Fredericksburg, and I felt indeed I expected, that all the parts of the plan which were to be executed in Washington would be attended to by officers at that place, under the direction of the different departments to which those parts of the plan appertained.

THE INSOLENCE OF MONOPOLIES.—A single phrase in the recent letter of Mr. H. V. Butler, President of the Papermakers' Association, shows the overbearing insolence of monopolies. "However you may writhe under the necessary advance in the price of paper," says Butler, "you must pay it." In other words, Butler tells us that as long as he and his associates can make money by taxing knowledge and making the poor man pay dearly for his newspaper or go without it, just so long this paper monopoly will keep up the prices. Let Congress pass Mr. Colfax's bill reducing the duty on foreign paper to three per cent., and we shall find Butler and other birds of that feather singing a vastly different song.—*N. Y. Herald.*

In Gen. Schenck's general order, upon taking command in Baltimore, he says: "Nobody who loves our free institutions will pretend that thoughts or opinions, if that were possible, should be suppressed, or would desire to invade or disturb the sacredness of private life or conversation; but, in this view of civil obligation, it must not be complained of if any public or open demonstrations, or declarations of sympathy with treason, should provoke a strict and needful observation of the conduct of the offending party, and lead even to punishment or restraint if accompanied by acts of complicity or anything tending to danger or disorder."

An effort is being made to have Speaker Grow appointed Secretary of the Interior, and Hon. Schuyler Colfax, who has been recently re-elected to Congress, chosen Speaker of the House.

A London surgeon was paid \$3,000 for declaring that Garibaldi had no bullet in his wound. An eminent French surgeon, however, soon after found a bullet there, and the Londoner is now called upon to refund the fee—which he won't.

The Boston Post says the "colored gentlemen" of that city, think that if Gov. Andrew accepts invitations to their social parties and dinners, he should reciprocate the courtesies at his own mansion. And why not? "Turn about is fair play."

Mrs. Margaret Gormby's house on Jefferson street, in Georgetown, was entered by a burglar or burglars on Monday night and robbed of \$700, \$400 in twenty dollar gold pieces and the rest in small change. The burglars have not yet been arrested.